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(*b*) what action the Government propose to take thereon ; and

(*c*) when the comprehensive amendment of the Act is likely to be introduced into the Council ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (*a*) of question No. 87.

Advances by Government to the Religious Endowments Board.

* 260 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of loans so far advanced by the Government to the Religious Endowments Board ;

(*b*) whether any portion of that has been recovered by the Government ; and

(*c*) if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) Rs. 3,02,500.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Until the Board realizes the arrears of contributions due to it, it is not in a position to repay.

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With reference to clause (*a*) of this question, may I know the purposes for which these loans were advanced, whether they were particularly for the salaries of the Commissioners and their travelling allowances ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I believe these advances were made at the time of my predecessor in office,—I mean the predecessor of the gentleman who was last in this office—for the carrying on of the work of this Board."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister how long the department has been in existence, and whether advances are still being made ? "

11-30 a.m. The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Since I took charge of this particular portfolio, no advance has been made."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" In view of the good work that is being done by the Board and in view of the difficulties encountered by them in realising the arrears of contribution, will the Government be pleased to waive their right to recover the whole amount ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The matter will have to be considered before any definite answer could be given."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Apart from considering the question of writing off, has Government taken any steps to collect these loans from the Religious Endowments Board from the time of the advance up to this moment ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I have said in the answer itself that the Board's financial condition has not been such as to make them repay the advances so far made."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" I am asking a question. Has the Government taken any steps or has it not taken any steps to recover this amount from the Board ? "

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The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The Government has taken this step, i.e., they have asked the Board whether it would be able to pay the contribution in the near future. The Board have explained that they are not in a position to do so."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Did they request the Government to write off the advance ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"This question is being considered but I cannot say what conclusions would be arrived at."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"I did not ask for the conclusions of the Government. Did they ask the Government to write off the amount ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I believe the hon. Gentleman is right in his assumption."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"May I know what proportion of the contributions have been paid so far ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That again is a matter of administrative detail for which I want notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to the answer to (c), may I know if the Government expects that the Board will not be in a position to pay until all the arrears are realized or whether they propose to make this the first charge on such arrears of contribution or on such concurrent contributions which may be realized by the Board ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Till a decision as to the question of the repayment of these loans is arrived at, I certainly think that ought to be the first charge on the Board."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Since the members of this Board draw as pay Government money, may I know if they will be considered as Government servants and also if the rules applicable to Government servants will be equally applicable to them ?"

The hon Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I am taken by surprise by this question and I must ask for notice."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"In view of the supplementary answer to my last supplemental question, may I know whether Government have taken any steps to impress upon this Board that the repayment of this loan shall be their first charge ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Government have repeatedly informed the Board of this fact."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know whether any portion of the advance has been returned so far and, if so, what amount ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The answer to (b) answers the question."